

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

For: Methods and Systems Using PLD-Based
Network Communications Protocols

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) Art Unit: Unassigned

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) Examiner: Unassigned

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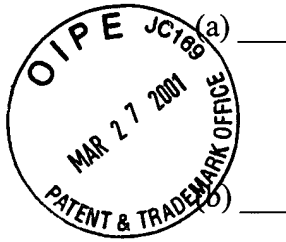
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

1. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed except for: (a) pending applications or (b) those previously cited or submitted to the Office in the following application(s) upon which this application relies for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120:

Filing Date: _____

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth in the following document(s):



(a) _____ Copy of each English language version of a search report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office of each document being submitted from the search report.

(b) _____ Attachment entitled "Concise Explanation of Relevance of Non-English Language Documents."

3. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

(a) _____ Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.

(b) X Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. If this Statement is not filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, the required certification is given below or, in the absence thereof, the Office is authorized to charge the required fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-0251 for consideration of this Statement.

(c) _____ After the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance.

(1) _____ The required certification is given below, or

(2) _____ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or

(3) _____ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-0251

(d) _____ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. Petition hereby is made for consideration of this Statement and the required certification is indicated below.

(1) _____ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i)(1), or

(2) _____ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 50-0251.

4. Certification (if applicable)

(a) _____ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent



office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

(b) — The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0251.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan R. Loudermilk
Registration No. 32,788
Attorney for Applicant(s)

March 27, 2001
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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify that the foregoing is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, Express Mail Label No. EL751998491US, to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, this 27th day of March, 2001.

Karen A. Rogers